

LAKE BUEL

(MONTEREY-NEW MARLBOROUGH)

AREA = 196 Acres



GREAT BARRINGTON
NEW MARLBOROUGH
MONTEREY

1.6 Mi. to Rt. 23
MILL

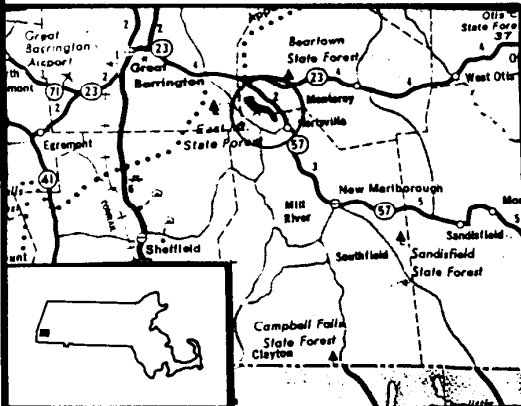
Access

RIVER

ROAD

0.8 Mi. to Rt. 57

LOCATION



LAKE BUEL
(Monterey / New Marlboro)

General Information:

This medium size, relatively deep 196-acre lake is located just south of Route 57, roughly a mile south of its junction with Route 23. Maximum depth is 42 feet; average depth is approximately 20 feet. Transparency is very good, extending to 13 feet, and aquatic vegetation — particularly submerged water milfoil — is exceedingly abundant. The shorelines are thickly developed with permanent and seasonal residences. Not surprisingly, recreational use of the lake is high.

There is an excellent, paved boat ramp on the northwestern side of the pond, owned by the Public Access Board and managed by the Division of Forests and Parks. It is suitable for launching all but the largest trailer craft, and there is no fee. A paved lot next to the ramp provides ample parking space for up to 30 vehicles.

Fish Populations:

The last formal fisheries survey was conducted here in 1978. At least 13 species were recorded present at that time: largemouth bass, chain pickerel, yellow perch, bluegill, white perch, pumpkinseed, brown bullhead, black crappie, rock bass, white sucker, golden shiner, common shiner and bridled minnow. The lake is also stocked with abundant numbers of trout — brookies, browns and rainbows — every spring and fall.

It was also stocked with northern pike from 1979 through 1995, and a reproducing population may now be established. Tiger muskies, stocked in 1997, are the most recent addition to Buel's gamefish populations.

Fishing:

This lake has always been a good producer for anglers of every stripe, but due to limited shoreline access, it is best fished from a boat. Trout are considered the major fishery, drawing heavy pressure during the spring months before the dense weed growth, recreational boaters and water skiers make trolling difficult to impossible.

Bass and panfish are abundant, and trophy largemouths are occasionally reported. Once again, however, dense weeds and competition with other recreational users during the summer present problems for anglers. Only the most weedless lures (such as rubber worms or floating frogs) can be fished effectively in most areas under 10 to 15 feet in depth. Avoid the crowds by fishing very early in the morning or late at night.

Best action of the year, at least for the warm water species, is during the winter. Ice fishermen, depending on how they rig up and what size bait they use, can score on trout, bass and panfish. Many specialists rig for nothing but pike, using wire leaders and big baits. Most pike taken here are taken through the ice, and at least a few fish in excess of 15 pounds are caught every winter.

February 1998